

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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P 271537Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5498

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS MADRID 3276

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH PRESS REACTION TO PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS

REF: MADRID 3238

1. ALL MAJOR MADRID DAILIES HEADLINED THEIR STORIES ON THE PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS A VICTORY FOR THE SOCIALISTS BUT ALL OBSERVED FURTHER THAT THE SOCIALISTS VOTE PERCENTAGE DROPPED FROM THAT OF A YEAR AGO AND THAT NO PARTY EMERGED WITH THE CLEAR MAJORITY THAT WOULD HAVE ASSURED POLITICAL STABILITY.

2. "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT) ASSERTED THAT SOARES' DESIRE TO GOVERN ALONE HAD BEEN PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE AND MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON WHO IS ELECTED PRESIDENT. THOUGH THE ELECTORATE NEARLY TOTALLY REJECTED THE EXTREMES OF RIGHT AND LEFT, THE INDUSTRIAL ZONES AROUND LISBON AND SETUBAL HAD "UNDONE THE EQUILIBRIUM AND MODERATION WHICH WAS DOMINANT IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. BUT EVEN THE ALENTEJO AND THE ALGRAVE HAD GIVEN THE MAJORITY OF THEIR VOTES TO SOCIALISM AND NOT TO COMMUNISM." "YA" CONSIDERD THIS LAST DEVELOPMENT TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE POLITICAL FUTURE IF AGRARIAN REFORM IS CARRIED OUT REALISTICALLY

3. "ABC" (MONARCHIST) SUGGESTED THAT THE ELECTORAL VICTORY

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OF THE SOCIALS WOULD ALLOW THEM TO GOVERN ALONE BUT ONLY WITH

THE "TACIT SUPPORT OF OTHER PARTIES WHICH WOULD NECESSARILY BE THOSE OF MODERATION." THOUGH THE PCP HAD INCREASED ITS PERCENTAGE BY THREE POINTS IT HAD NOT IN FACT REACHED THE PERCENTAGE TOTAL WHICH IT AND THE PROTO-COMMUNISTS MDP-CDE HAD OBTAINED A YEAR AGO. LIKEWISE, THOUGH THE CDS HAD DOUBLED ITS TOTAL, IT HAD HOPED TO TRIPLE IT HAD EVEN SPOKEN OF OBTAINING A MAJORITY IN COMBINATION WITH THE PPD. THE RESULTS THUS, INDICATE A VICTORY OF THE LEFT "ALTHOUGH IN A MODERATE AND CONDITIONAL VERSION".

4. "ARRIBE (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) NOTED AS WELL THAT THE POSSIBLE OF A COALITION OF THE RIGHT BETWEEN THE PPD AND THE CDS HAD BEEN DISCARDED. "ARRIBA" BELIEVES ALSO THAT THE PS WOULD NOT ALLY WITH THE PPD, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, THAN FOR "PERSONAL RIVALRY" BETWEEN THEIR LEADERS. THE LIKELIEST ALLIANCE, DESPITE DISAVOWALS BY BOTH SOARES AND CUNHAL, CLAIMED WOULD BE PS AND PCP.  
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